

Attorney Docket No.: PATENT
NEI-00105

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	Group Art Unit:
Gary R. McLuen et al.)	Examiner:
Serial No.:)	
Filed: herewith)	<u>PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT</u>
For: MULTI-WELL ROTARY SYNTHESIZER)	260 Sheridan Avenue, Suite 420
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the subject application as follows:

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

After the title and before the first line, please insert --This is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/097,966, filed June 16, 1998, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-30.

Please amend the following claims:

31. (Amended) A method of selectively and sequentially dispensing a plurality of reagent solutions to a plurality of vials divided into a first bank of vials and a second bank of vials and selectively purging material from the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials, comprising the steps of:

- a. dispensing one or more of the plurality of reagent solutions to a selective one or more of the plurality of vials, to perform synthesis within the selective one or more of the plurality of vials; [and]
- b. engaging a drain associated with a selective one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials within a purging system; and
- c. purging material from [a selective] the selected one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials through the purging system.

32. (Amended) The method according to claim 31 wherein [during] the step of dispensing is performed in a parallel fashion when one of the plurality of reagent solutions is dispensed into [one or] more than one of the plurality of vials [in a parallel fashion].

34. (Amended) A method of selectively purging material from a selective one of a first vial and a second vial in which synthesis is taking place comprising the steps of:

- a. [coupling] engaging a drain associated with the selected one of the first vial and the second vial with a waste tube [to a selective one of a first drain corresponding to the first vial and a second drain corresponding to the second vial]; [and]
- b. forming a pressure differential between an interior and an exterior of the selective one of the first vial and the second vial, thereby expelling material from the selective one of the first vial and the second vial through the waste tube; and
- c. disengaging the waste tube from the drain after the material has been purged.

Please add the following new claims:

35. (New) The method according to claim 31 wherein the step of purging materials includes generating a pressure differential within the selective one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials.

36. (New) The method according to claim 31 wherein the step of engaging a drain is accomplished by engaging the drain with a waste tube.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36 further comprising the step of forming a pressure differential between an interior and an exterior of the selective one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials, thereby expelling material from the selective one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials through the waste tube.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37 further comprising the step of disengaging the waste tube from the drain after the material has been purged.

39. (New) A method of selectively and sequentially dispensing a plurality of reagent solutions to a plurality of vials divided into a first bank of vials and a second bank of vials and selectively purging material from the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials, comprising:

- a. dispensing one or more of the plurality of reagent solutions to a selective one or more of the plurality of vials, to perform synthesis within the selective one or more of the plurality of vials; and
- b. purging material from the selected one of the first bank of vials and the second bank of vials.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39 wherein dispensing is performed in a parallel fashion when one of the plurality of reagent solutions is dispensed into more than one of the plurality of vials.

41. (New) The method according to claim 39 wherein during dispensing, one or more of the plurality of reagent solutions are dispensed into one or more of the plurality of vials in a serial fashion.

42. (New) A method of selectively purging material from a selective one of a first vial and a second vial in which synthesis is taking place comprising:

- a. coupling a waste tube to a selective one of a first drain corresponding to the first vial and a second drain corresponding to the second vial; and
- b. forming a pressure differential between an interior and an exterior of the selective one of the first vial and the second vial, thereby expelling material from the selective one of the first vial and the second vial through the waste tube.

43. (New) The method according to claim 42 further comprising disengaging the waste tube from the drain after the material has been purged.

REMARKS

This case is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/097,966 filed on June 16, 1998 which was subject to a Restriction Requirement. The Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above preliminary amendment. By this preliminary amendment applicants have cancelled Claims 1-30 and added the new Claims 35-43. Accordingly, after the above preliminary amendment Claims 31-43 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 833-0160 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 19, 2000

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